

Filed for intro on 01/28/98

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 472  
By Williams (Wil)

A RESOLUTION directing the Department of Environment and Conservation to conduct a feasibility study to create a park management unit by combining certain state properties along the Harpeth River.

WHEREAS, the Volunteer State is blessed with an abundance of clean water, recreational opportunities, significant historical and archaeological areas and other natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, one such area involves certain properties along the Harpeth River; these properties include the Newsom's Mill historic area, the Hidden Lakes historic area, the Mound Bottom archaeological area, the Narrows of the Harpeth historic areas and the Harpeth River, each area represents the spirit and beauty that is unique to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, knowledgeable observers have suggested that these properties are worthy of protection and preservation as a whole by the state; one way of protecting and preserving the lands together would be to create a new park management unit; and

WHEREAS, the state must carefully study the properties and all available options before investing public funds in such a venture; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation is the most appropriate agency to perform such feasibility study, as preserving, conserving, enhancing and promoting our state's natural and cultural resources is a primary mission of the agency; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Department of Environment and Conservation is hereby directed to conduct a feasibility study relative to creating a viable park management unit for certain state properties along the Harpeth River in Cheatham and Davidson Counties. The overall purpose of the park unit would be to interpret the history of the river to the public and promote heritage and tourism.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the properties to be included in the study are:

- (1) The Newsom's Mill historic area;
- (2) The Hidden Lakes historic area;
- (3) The Mound Bottom archaeological area;
- (4) The Narrows of the Harpeth historic area; and
- (5) The Harpeth River connecting the above areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study shall evaluate the feasibility and costs associated with the following:

- (1) an interpretive center at Mound Bottom;
- (2) a location to hold Native American Indian events and festivals; and
- (3) a location for reinterment of Native American Indian remains.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation shall seek comment from public interest groups including, but not limited to, Cheatham County government, the City of Kingston Springs, the Friends of Mound Bottom, the Alliance for Native American Indian Rights, the Native American Indian Association, and canoeing groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the Department of Environment and Conservation upon request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Environment and Conservation shall report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly no later than January 1, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Environment and Conservation.